

Appl. No. 09/784,665
Resp. dated FEBRUARY 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on November 1, 2005. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. Claims 22-30 and 35 remain pending.

Claims 22-29 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopez et al. in U.S. Patent No. 4,752,292 in view of Burkett et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,582,395. Claims 22 recites:

a port disposed at the proximal end of the catheter shaft, the port having an opening defined therein that is in fluid communication with the inflation lumen and a flanged end; and
a seal member attached to the flanged end and covering the opening.

Thus, claim 22 includes limitations directed to a flanged end on the proximal end of a catheter shaft and a seal attached to the flanged end. Similarly, claim 35 recites:

wherein the port includes a proximal end, a proximal flange, and a proximal end surface defined by the proximal end and the proximal flange; and
a seal attached to the proximal end surface that seals the inflation lumen.

Thus, claim 35 recites limitations directed to a port having a proximal flange, a proximal end surface defined by the proximal end and the proximal flange, and a seal attached to the proximal end surface. The Examiner indicated that Lopez et al. disclose the claimed invention at Figures 1-2 and 22. However, none of the devices shown in Figures 1-2 and 22 show a flanged end or a seal disposed over the flanged end. Because of this, Lopez et al. fail to disclose a limitation of claims 22 and 35. Burkett et al. fail to cure this defect. Therefore, claims 22 and 35 are believed to be patentable over the combination of Lopez et al. and Burkett et al. Because claims 23-29 depend from claim 22, they are also patentable based on these remarks and because they add significant elements to distinguish them further from the art.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopez et al. in view of Burkett et al. as applied to claims 22-29 above, and further in view of Imran et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,779,688. As described above, claim 22 is believed to be allowable over Lopez et al. and Burkett et al. because neither reference teaches or discloses a limitation recited by claim 22. Imran et al. fail to cure this defect. Consequently, claim 22 is believed to be patentable over the combination of Lopez et al., Burkett et al., and Imran et al. Because claim 30 depends from

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claim 22, it is also distinguishable from the cited references for the same reason and because it adds significant elements to distinguish it further from the art.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

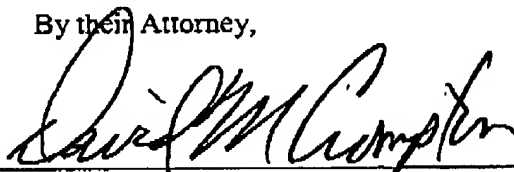
Respectfully submitted,

Yiqun Wang et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: _____

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David M. Crompton, Reg. No. 36,772
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2420
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349